



CRS Parent Connection

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services



Volume 11, Number 4

Winter 2003

Meet Odessa Taylor, Parent Consultant

Hello, my name is Odessa Taylor, parent consultant for the CRS office in Selma. I am a single parent of four daughters, Melinda, June, Dawn and Joslyn. Joslyn, who is 14 years old and a 7th grade student in middle school, is my daughter with special needs. Joslyn was born with clubfeet, and after several operations is now walking with a partial limp.



A former boss first introduced me to CRS. She had worked for this agency more than fifty years ago as its first social worker when it was known as Crippled Children's Service. She told me to get in touch with CRS because she knew what a great job they were doing. We have been involved with the CRS family for 14 years, seven years as a parent consultant. You know, sometimes we are not sure why things fall in line like that, but God had a plan for us.

When I left my field of library science to work for CRS, I didn't know all that the job would entail and wasn't sure I could do it. IEP's, special health care, advocacy, assistive technology, family-centered care and collaborating were words that were Greek to me. The CRS staff and the families I meet and talk to everyday have taught me a lot and have given new meaning to these previously unknown words. Now I can tell families "yes I can" and "yes you can." You can be and do whatever you set your mind to do. You just need the support and resources to help you. We, as parents of children with special needs, have hopes and dreams like all parents do, but most of the time we have to fight for everything we get. That is why I advocate for all children so we can see that our children can be the best they can be.

At the Selma CRS office we have a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) that meets every three months. I invite all parents, guardians and grandparents to join us so we can learn together what's new out there for our children. Please call or come in and talk with me anytime. Our telephone number is (334) 872-8421 or 1-800-967-6876. You can also email me at otaylor@rehab.state.al.us.

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Parent Connection is a complimentary newsletter published by Children's Rehabilitation Service for families of children with special health care needs. The goal of this newsletter is to increase communication and share information about children with special health care needs and their families. The newsletter reflects a family-centered theme throughout and serves as a forum for family members to share information, thoughts, feelings, concerns, etc. Nothing printed or implied in this publication constitutes an endorsement by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.

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From The Director's Chair



Happy Holidays Everyone!

Ah, the holiday season. It is my favorite time of year! It is also a time for reflection and a time to give thanks! In fact, my last year's holiday season *Parent Connection* article spoke about the fact that we all have reasons to be thankful no matter what our circumstances are. This year I want to take the opportunity to thank YOU! **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CRS!**

As you know, on September 9 the voters of Alabama resoundingly rejected Amendment One and its proposed revenue increases. During the special legislative session that followed, only programs and services the Legislature and governor considered as essential survived without significant cuts for 2004. At that time I was amazed and thrilled at how many times I heard legislators refer to the services provided by the Department of Rehabilitation Services, including CRS, as ESSENTIAL state services! I believe that this is directly related to your active support at the local level for CRS and also to the mission of CRS, which is to serve children and youth with special health care needs and their families. **TOGETHER WE MADE A DIFFERENCE!** CRS emerged from the special session in relatively good financial shape for 2004 and **WE ARE THANKFUL!**

WE ARE THANKFUL for the partnership CRS has with you, the families we serve. This partnership is one of the greatest strengths and assets we have and I pledge to you that CRS will work hard to make this partnership even stronger. We must all work to make it stronger because the funding crisis is not over. Governor Riley and the state finance director have already sounded the alarm for a possible \$558 million shortfall in the 2005 Education and General Fund budgets if no new money is available. This year's budget crisis will seem mild if the 2005 predictions become reality, and our challenge to maintain funding will be a tremendous one.

I know that each one of you is no stranger to challenges. You face many challenges every single day and I also know that you overcome many challenges every single day. CRS could not ask for a stronger and more committed partner to face and overcome the challenges that lie ahead than you, the families we serve, and **WE THANKYOU!** CRS will continue to develop a service cut contingency plan in the coming months in order to be prepared for the possible challenges of next year. We actively ask for

(Continued on Page 3)



SOMETHING NEW AT CRS

Would you like a record of the services you receive each time you come to a CRS clinic? CRS thinks it is important that both the agency and families keep track of what is done for children during both clinic and CRS office visits. During November, CRS began using a new data management system to do electronic billing to third-party payors. Part of this new system involves having a "charge document" completed for each clinic visit and any billable staff office visit, such as nursing visits, therapy evaluations and services, and nutritional counseling. Each discipline staff member seen in clinic (physicians, dentists, nurses, social workers, therapists, audiologists, and nutritionists) will mark what service he or she gave to the child on the child's charge document. At the end of the clinic or office visit, the family will be given a copy of the charge document. This information will then be entered into the new data management system to be billed to insurance companies.

You have probably received a similar document when you take your child to the doctor's office. At a doctor's office, it is usually called a "superbill." CRS chose not to refer to our charge document as a superbill because families will not be balance billed for any clinic visits or staff office visits. If your family has an annual financial participation co-pay amount, that amount is calculated only from purchased services, such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, medications, visits in the physician's office and hospitalizations. Thus, families will never be directly "billed" for any services related to clinic or provided by a CRS staff member in the CRS office.

For families with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama or All-Kids coverage, there will only be one charge for a CRS clinic visit on the "Explanation of Benefits" notice you receive from the insurance company. This happens because CRS has an agreement with those insurers to bill an "inclusive clinic encounter" charge rather than an individual charge for each service given in clinic. CRS has a similar arrangement with the Alabama Medicaid Agency. If your child has coverage through those insurers, the inclusive clinic encounter code should be marked in the lower right-hand side of the charge document at each clinic visit.

CRS hopes that your family finds the new charge document a helpful way to keep up with what your child has received from CRS. Any questions or problems may be addressed with your child's care coordinator or your local district supervisor.

Dawn Ellis
CRS Assistant Director

Vendor Directory on the Web

Children's Rehabilitation Service (CRS) has developed a directory of non-medical vendors to fully inform clients and families of all available options for delivery of services within the agency. This directory is available on the ADRS (Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services) website at www.rehab.state.al.us. Navigate to the CRS page and choose Vendors. The vendors listed provide the following services: audiology, durable medical equipment, hearing aids, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, orthotic/prosthetics, physical therapy and speech-language pathology. To view a list of vendors, select the CRS district office and type of vendor you need. You will see not only the company name, but also address, telephone number, office hours and other pertinent information.



(Director's Letter Continued from Page 2)

consumer and family input about what these cuts should include and how they should be carried out if they become necessary.

At the risk of repeating myself from the last newsletter, I want to again mention that one of the most effective ways you can provide input is through the CRS State and Local Parent Advisory Committees (PAC). There are local PAC's across the state which are facilitated by our local CRS parent consultants. Please consider becoming a CRS local PAC member. If you are not familiar with the PAC in your area, please contact your local CRS office or contact Susan Colburn, CRS State Parent Consultant, at 1-800-846-3697 for information.

In closing, I want to wish each of you a joyous holiday season and to once again say to our partners, **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CRS!**

Until Next Time!

Cary Boswell, Assistant Commissioner
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

ANNISTON CRS PARTICIPATES IN FOURTH ANNUAL GENE FAIR COMMUNITY RALLY AND PARADE

On Saturday, October 11, 2003, the Anniston CRS staff and some of our families marched in a parade down historic Noble Street in Anniston to increase awareness of and honor people with disabilities. Our team of about 20 adults and children paraded with an estimated 1,000 people to support this message.

Parade organizer Gene Fair, who has Parkinson's Disease, was quoted in The Anniston Star: "We want to alert the public that just because a kid is in a wheelchair, it doesn't mean he's not intelligent, and that he can hear what you say. I wanted the community to understand that our bodies may not be the same as yours, but our minds are still good. The inspiration for this event started with a dream I had after seeing a little girl with spina bifida in a wheelchair. A mother of two rowdy children, after passing the girl, warned the children that she'd put them in wheelchairs if they didn't behave."



Mr. Fair dedicated this year's rally and parade to the memory of Matt Morris, a Jacksonville State University (JSU) cheerleader, who died in a car accident last year – the day before he was supposed to march in the parade with a young child with cerebral palsy on his shoulders. At the rally, Morris' framed jersey was presented to his mother, Maryann Dalton of Sylacauga. The grand marshals for the parade were Anniston Mayor and Mrs. Chip Howell. The parade included several area school bands with their cheerleaders; the Jacksonville State University mascot, "Cocky", cheerleaders, band, drama team, show choir, softball team and International House students; the Shriners with a fire engine and many go-carts; church groups; the ARC of Calhoun County puppets; East Central Alabama UCP; the Humane Society with animals available for adoption; clowns; and numerous others. The parade ended in Zinn Park with free food, fun and games, which were enjoyed by all. Entertainment was provided by the JSU jazz band, drama team and show choir.

Sandra Hazzard
Anniston CRS Parent Consultant

Lifeline and Link-Up for BellSouth Customers in Alabama

Lifeline is a government program that offers qualified people a discount on their monthly local telephone bill. These benefits apply to your local basic telephone service charges. You are eligible for Lifeline if you participate in Medicaid. To learn more about Lifeline and to apply, call 888-757-6500. You will be asked to provide proof of your eligibility.



Another program, called Link-Up, helps households pay the installation charge for telephone service. If you

qualify for Lifeline, you also qualify for Link-Up. It can only be used for the charges for activating main phone service or moving existing service to a new address. To apply for Link-Up call 557-6500 (this is a local call from anywhere in BellSouth's service area in Alabama).

You have heard a lot about the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 but what does it mean to parents? *No Child Left Behind: A Parents Guide* focuses on the parent-related provisions of the law such as school report cards, school options, safer schools, and supplemental education services. For a copy, call 1-877-4ED-PUBS with identification number EAT0060P.

A Medical Home: Consistent, Knowledgeable and Comforting Health Care

Who is your child's primary health provider? What health professional knows your child's general health and specific diagnosis best? When you are faced with a difficult decision about your child's health care, who helps you feel comfortable about what you are doing? Where does your son or daughter go for routine medical care—camp physicals, ear aches, immunizations, blood-levels? After surgery, who follows your child back home? Who consults with the school IEP team about your child's health status?

These are important questions about an important issue—a Medical Home. Every child deserves consistent and high quality health care, especially when our health care systems are undergoing constant change. In fact, in this changing health care world, it's more important than ever that every family with a child with special health care needs finds health care stability. Every family should have a strong, respectful relationship with a provider who knows the child and his/her diagnosis well, who views the family as a trusted partner and who gives quality, ongoing, coordinated care and information about non-medical services such as respite, WIC, Early Intervention, and other services that are important to our children with special health care needs.

Family Voices has worked with the American Academy of Pediatrics/AAP to help families and our professional health partners build Medical Homes for more than 9 million children with special health care needs in this country. We know that a Medical Home is NOT A PLACE; that it's not built of bricks and lumber. The core of a Medical Home is a knowledgeable, loving health professional, chosen by the family to take care of their child's health needs, accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This provider knows a child and his/her special condition, understands and respects his/her family; and coordinates and works in partnership with parents, early interventionists, teachers, therapists, brothers and sisters, pediatric specialists, insurance companies, grandparents, nurses, care coordinators, child care workers, state health agencies, neighbors and friends. When a child has a Medical Home, the family is confident that a known, respected expert is always there to provide quality health services and care coordination.

A Medical Home can be found in any number of settings: in urban, suburban, and rural communities; in private practice, and community clinics. A Medical Home for a child with special health care needs can be provided by a pediatrician, family practitioner, pediatric specialist, perhaps a nurse practitioner or other primary care provider who has the knowledge and skills to treat the child's special condition while also providing typical pediatric care.

As we families consider health care providers for our children with special health care needs, it's important to discuss the importance of a Medical Home with representatives of insurance plans, managed care organizations, Medicaid agencies and others who make decisions that affect a child's health. We can explain how a Medical Home assures quality, efficient, family-centered care. We can assure them that in the long run, a Medical Home can lessen the cost of caring for children with special health care needs while improving family satisfaction and outcomes for our children.

At Family Voices, Maureen Mitchell is directly involved with Medical Home training, materials, and family activities. Contact her at 202/494-8383 or va_familyvoices@yahoo.com. Or call the American Academy of Pediatrics/AAP at 847/823-5256. Look for a link to the AAP's Medical Home project on the Family Voices website: www.familyvoices.org, or call us toll free at 1-888/835-5669.

The National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs located within the American Academy of Pediatrics has a new website at www.medicalhomeinfo.org. The goal of the National Center is to ensure that children with special health care needs have a medical home where health care services are accessible, family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate and culturally-competent. The website provides resources, tools and guidance to connect children with special health care needs to a medical home.



Let's YAC About It

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From the Pen of the Youth Consultant

Hello, Everyone,

I am back again to fill you in on my wonderful adventures as Youth Consultant. In September, I was granted the opportunity to travel to Boston and attend the 1st International Conference on Family-Centered Care. This was a wonderful experience! There were so many different speakers, and I am proud to say that among them were several young people representing various agencies and institutions. This was a great way to meet other young people and share our approaches and expertise in developing and maintaining youth advisory committees.

On August 14, 2003, I attended the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program's third annual Alabama Disability Summit. The speakers discussed various topics relating to advocacy for people with disabilities, as well as the tax package that was proposed by Governor Riley. This was a very informative conference, and many young people were in attendance. It is excellent that more youth are showing policymakers that they are concerned about the policies being made that will affect their lives.

As for the Youth Advisory Committee, plans are being made to schedule our next meeting. Look for more from YAC in the next newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns regarding *Let's YAC About It*, I can be reached at 1-800-441-7607. My e-mail address is jthomas@rehab.state.al.us.

Jennifer Thomas, Youth Consultant

2010 Transition Workgroup

Goal 6: "All youth with special health care needs will receive the services necessary to make transitions to all aspects of adult life."

The 2010 Transition Workgroup will be meeting several times in 2004 to review its working plan. If you are interested in working on our plan, please contact Linda Graham at 1-800-441-7607.

YLF News

The applications are available in for the Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum for High School Students with Disabilities. If you or someone you know is in high school and has a disability, please give YLF a try! This is a wonderful experience that can open doors to other opportunities.

Applications are in the CRS Offices across the state. They are also accessible at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services' Website. Type www.rehab.state.al.us/govcom in the address field. Scroll down and click on Youth Leadership Forum, and this will take you to a link for an application. You can also request an application from Linda Graham, State Adolescent Coordinator, at 1-800-441-7607 or lgraham@rehab.state.al.us.

The application deadline is February 20, 2004. Additional information can be found on the application.

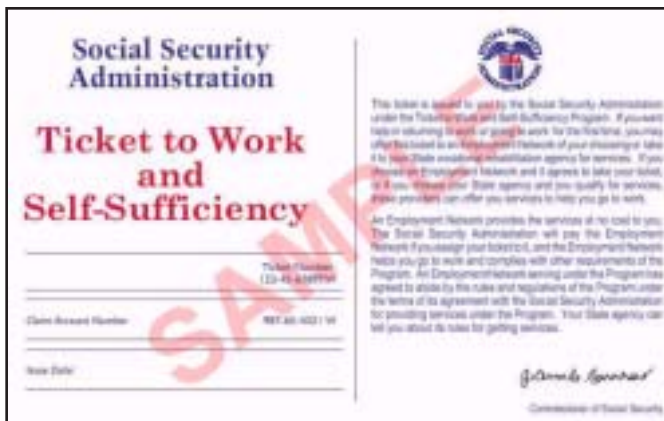


The Ticket to Work Program came to Alabama in November, 2003. Over the next year, disability (SSI and SSDI) beneficiaries will be receiving a “ticket” in the mail. The ticket may be used to obtain the services they need from the Employment Network of their choice.

The goal of the Ticket Program is to give disability beneficiaries the opportunity to achieve steady, long-term employment by providing them greater choices and opportunities to go to work if they choose to do so.

The Ticket Program is voluntary. Beneficiaries receiving tickets are not required to participate in the program or go to work.

For more information, look at the website: <http://www.yourtickettowork.com> or call Maximus at (866) 968-7842 or TTY at 866-833-2967. You can also contact the ADRS Ticket to Work Supervisor, John Roberts, toll free at 866-869-3290.



Ticket to Work provides choices and opportunities.

Websites & Other Resources

Adolescent Health Transition Project-This website was created by the University of Washington and is housed at the Center for Human Development and Disability. The Adolescent Health Transition Project is designed to help smooth the transition from pediatric to adult health care for adolescents with special health care needs. This site is a resource for information, materials and links to other people with an interest in health transition issues. There are a variety of tools and checklists to guide physicians and health care providers, youth and families through a successful transition. The website is <http://depts.washington.edu/healthr/index.html>.



Partners in Policymaking of Alabama, funded by the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities, is currently recruiting applicants for the Class of 2004. Partners in

Policymaking of Alabama is an eight-month leadership training program for individuals with special health care needs and parents of children with special health care needs. More information and applications for the program can be found at www.acdd.org/About/PIPA.htm or by contacting Jayne Chase, Coordinator of Partners in Policymaking at 1-800-846-3735 or by email at JChase1040@aol.com.

Please add me to your newsletter mailing list.

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Clip & Mail to:
Susan Colburn
Children's Rehabilitation Service
2129 East South Boulevard
Montgomery, AL 36116



My Tutor

Without speaking a word, she has taught God's most important lessons on how to live.

Without seeing, she has given me a vision of the grace and mercy only God can give.

Without reaching out to touch me, she has crushed my heart into a million pieces for God to remold to be like His.

Without holding herself up, she has lifted me out of selfishness to where great heights of compassion and joy are.

Without taking one step, she has left a never fading path of the knowledge of the love of God on my heart.

Without the sense of direction, she has guided me to be thankful for everything right from the start.

Without drawing a mark, she has painted a beautiful picture of Almighty God.

Without a kiss, she has given the kiss of God's presence through His shepherding rod.

Without trying, her accomplishments are astounding for such a short time.

I thank you God for this SPECIALLY CHALLENGED child of mine.

Tammy Sims

CRS Parent



The Shrinking Room

An original story by Leann Strickland, age 10
Mobile CRS Client

One day my cousins, Brooke, Jonathan, Lillie and I were working on some homework. Jonathan screamed, "I HATE HOMEWORK!! IT'S SO BORING!!" All of a sudden, Lillie had an idea. "I know," she said. "I have this room in my house that is kept locked. Why don't we go exploring in it?"

I said, "I don't think we should do that."

"Oh, come on, Leann. What are you, chicken?"

"I am not a chicken!"

"So do it, then."

"All right, I'll do it," I said.

"ALL RIGHT!! Let's go!" said Lillie.

We went over to her house and told her mom that we were going to her room. We were really going up to the locked room. I said, as we were going up the stairs, "I'm starting to think this is a bad idea."

"Oh, not this again. It won't be bad," said Brooke.

"But what if we get caught?" I asked.

"We won't," they screamed.

"SHHH, keep it down," I said. "We don't want your mom to know what we are doing."

"Sorry!"

We turned the corner, and there was the locked room. "O.K., let's do it!" We all backed up. Lillie grabbed the key, and the door slammed open. "OOOHHH!!" We all fell back. "Wh-wh-what's in there?" Brooke asked.

"Nothing," Jonathan said.

"What, nothing? What are you talking about?"

We all stepped into the room. "Hey, is it just me, or is it getting kind of small in here?" asked Brooke.

I said, "Uh, guys, I th-th-think this room is shrinking." I thought I must be crazy, but I saw the room getting smaller and smaller. "LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!" I yelled. I tripped and cried, "Help!! I'm stuck!" Lillie ran back to get me. "Hurry," I said. "It's getting smaller!" We almost got trapped, but we managed to make it out. I thought we were dead. We heard footsteps. "It's your mom! Run!!"

We made it into the room right before she did. Lillie's mother asked, "Would you like to spend the night?"

"Sure," we said. So we all settled down, and went to bed. I will never do that again.

SIMPLY VANTASTIC !!!!

Natasha Rhoden is a mother of four outstanding and typical children. Her son Dyonnte, the youngest of the four children, has cerebral palsy. Dyonnte uses a manual wheelchair for mobility, but given a little “attitude adjustment” could potentially be a power wheelchair user. While transporting four children is not considered too difficult these days, having the additional equipment Dyonnte needs presents a bit of a challenge.

Natasha’s past vehicles have always required a great deal of automotive work. When her last van stopped working entirely, she could not come up with the funds to purchase another. She relied on friends and family to help transport Dyonnte to and from school. Although his school was a long way from her home, Natasha felt confident that it was the best learning environment for him. She was very determined to keep him there.

Recently, CRS learned of an individual who wanted to donate a van to an organization or a family who would benefit greatly from it. CRS referred the individual to Robert Perry, chairman of the Children’s Rehabilitation Service engineering team. They take donated items, refurbish them, and turn them over to others who need them. Robert and I immediately thought of Natasha and her family. We had worked together for nearly two years to find her a dependable van. So many times we would come very close to obtaining one, but then would be disappointed when the plans fell through. On this occasion, we did not tell Natasha about the van until the very day that it was to be delivered to her. I will never forget the excitement in her voice when I called to ask if she still wanted a van. She asked me when she would be getting one, and I replied, “How about today?”

On October 3, 2003, I waited anxiously with Natasha for the arrival of the van. Tears were in her eyes when she saw the van for the first time. The day she had long prayed for had finally come, and it was all because of the generosity of another family who had “been there” before. I was truly blessed by this exchange. It was a day that none of us will ever forget.

Penny Strickland
Mobile CRS Parent Consultant



Of Grand Importance

Grandparents are very important people. If you don’t believe it, just ask their grandchildren. Grands may be part of a family support system by offering emotional and/or financial stability, respite and encouragement.

According to the U.S. Census 2000, almost half of the 5.8 million grandparents, who live in households with one or more grandchildren under the age of 18, are primarily responsible for meeting the basic needs of these children. Grandparents who are caregivers may experience stress from limited housing accommodation, financial difficulties, health issues and education concerns.

We are fortunate to live in a world where Grands are available to offer family support or step forward and take responsibility for their grandchildren. The Family

Support Project (FSP) has compiled information from a variety of sources on grandparenting, managing stress, looking at the issues, financial help and resources available in a booklet called *The Grandbook*. This free booklet is available to grandparents by copy or CD upon request. To order a booklet or for more information, contact Karen Williams, FSP Coordinator, 13684 State Hwy 134 East, Columbia, AL 36319, 334-696-4588, or by email williams@ala.net.

Karen Williams, FSP Coordinator

The Grandparents and Other Relative Caregivers Guide to Raising Children with Disabilities is a guide from the Children’s Defense Fund. It answers questions about available federal programs, eligibility requirements and how to enroll children. To obtain a free copy call 202-662-3568 or email childwelfare@childrensdefense.org.

Parents and Kids



Are You Playing It Safe?

Medication Safety Tips from the National Patient Safety Foundation

Being knowledgeable about the different medications your child is taking is a very important responsibility. Often you are asked to share this information with different health care providers, and what you remember and share can make a difference in what treatment options are offered, and ultimately, in how effective they are for your child. The following tips were developed by the Partnership for Safe Medication Use:

Talk with your Doctor, Pharmacist or Other Healthcare Professional

- Keep an up-to-date, written list of ALL of the medicines (prescription and over the counter) and dietary supplements (including vitamins and herbals) that your child uses.
- Share this list with ALL of your health care professionals.
- Tell about any allergies or sensitivities that your child has.
- Tell about anything, such as difficulty swallowing, that could affect your child's ability to take medicines.
- Always ask questions about any concerns or thoughts that you may have.

Know your Medicines—Prescription and Over-the-Counter

- Brand and generic names
- What they look like
- How to store them properly
- When, how and how long to use them
- How and under what conditions you should stop using them
- What to do if you miss a dose
- What are they supposed to do and when to expect results

- Side effects and interactions
- Always ask for written information to take with you

Read the Label and Follow Directions

- Make sure you understand the directions; ask if you have concerns.
- Always double-check that you have the right medicine.
- Keep medicines in their original labeled containers whenever possible.
- Never combine different medicines in the same bottle.

Avoid Interactions

- Ask if there are interactions with any other medicines or dietary supplements (including vitamins or herbal supplements), beverages or foods.
- Use the same pharmacy for all of your child's medicine needs whenever possible.
- Before starting any new medicine or dietary supplement (including vitamins or herbal supplements), ask again if there are possible interactions with what your child is currently using.

Monitor Your Medicines' Effects and the Effects of Other Products that Your Child Uses

- Ask if there is anything you can do to minimize side effects, such as having your child eat before taking a medicine to reduce stomach upset.
- Note any changes in how your child is feeling. Write down the changes so that you can remember to tell your child's doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.
- Know what to do if your child experiences side effects and when to notify your doctor.
- Know when you should notice improvements in your child and when to report back to your health care professional.

Reading is Fun

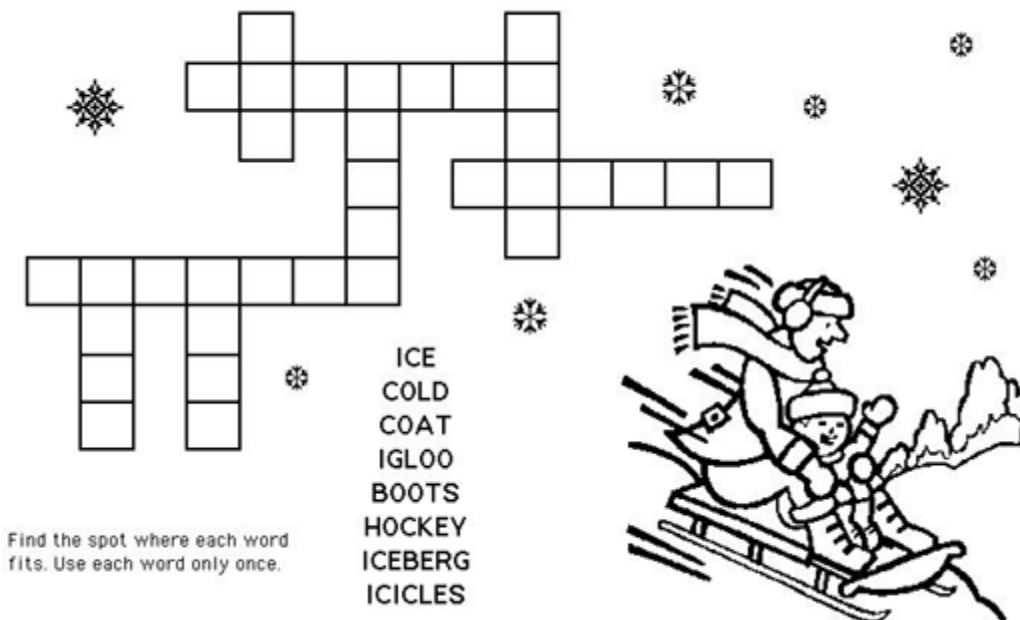
These tips may help boost your child's reading skills and make reading fun.

- Get a library card for your child. Children love seeing their names on the cards and choosing books they either want to read or have read to them. Many libraries offer story hours and computers for public use. Librarians also can help your child with everything from locating books to tackling research.
- Read with your child for at least 20 minutes every night from a broad selection of children's books, including fairy tales, songs, poetry, fiction and nonfiction.
- For beginning readers, point at each word as you read it. This helps children learn that we read from left to right. It also helps children understand that the word they say is the word they see.
- Let your beginning reader read to you.
- Talk with your child about the pictures and what is happening in the story to help develop comprehension skills.
- Read your child's favorite book over and over again. Children love hearing certain stories many times, and the repetition helps them connect the sounds they hear with the written words.
- Invite your younger children to join in when you read stories that have rhyming words and lines that repeat.
- Point out new words and explain what they mean.

The Achiever, September 15, 2003,
U.S. Department of Education



Winter Crossword





CRS Parent Connection

Children's Rehabilitation Service
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
2129 East South Blvd.
Montgomery, AL 36116

PRESORTED
STANDARD
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Out What's Ahead

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| January 17, 2004 | State PAC meeting, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services State Office; Montgomery,
Contact: Susan Colburn, scolburn@rehab.state.al.us or 1-800-846-3697 |
| January 29-30, 2004 | Alabama Autism State Conference, Bryant Conference Center, University of Alabama,
Tuscaloosa,
Contact: Carl Nowell, cnowell@rehab.state.al.us or 1-800-441-7607 |
| June 6-10, 2004 | Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum; Troy State University; Troy,
(Information and application to attend are at www.rehab.state.al.us (Deadline for application is
February 20, 2004) |
| June 9-12, 2004 | 2004 International VSA Arts Festival, Washington D.C.,
(More information and applications for participation are at www.vsaartsfestival.org) |